



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

*[Handwritten Signature]*

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/937,020	09/20/2001	Stephen Gold	1509-195	3071

7590 10/01/2003

Allan M Lowe  
Lowe Hauptman Gilman & Berner  
1700 Diagonal Road Suite 310  
Alexandria, VA 22314

EXAMINER

ST CYR, DANIEL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2876

DATE MAILED: 10/01/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/937,020	HOUSEY ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Daniel St.Cyr	2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 June 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
  - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Art Unit: 2876

## DETAILED ACTION

1. This is a response to the amendment filed 6/6/03.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 1-6 and 8-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Balsom, US Patent No. 5,568,455, in view of applicant's admitted prior art.

Balsom discloses a system and method for storage and retrieval of off-line preformatted optical media comprising: a plurality of receptacles 46 for storing a plurality of cartridge data storage devices; a selector 45 operable to select, retrieve and replace said cartridge data storage devices from said receptacles; and a reader for transducing data vis a vis the cartridge devices, said selector being configured to selectively load one of the cartridge in the reader device, said

Art Unit: 2876

reader being configured to read data signals from a bar code 30 of the cartridge loaded in the reader and print indications derived from said data signals (see figures 3-4 and col. 6, line 12+).

Balsom fails to disclose or fairly suggests that a programmable storage medium having the cartridge information is affixed onto the cartridge.

The applicant admitted that affixing a programmable storage device onto the external surface of the cartridges for storing cartridge information is well known in the art (see figure 1 and page 11, line 13+).

It would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Balsom to include a programmable storage device affixed onto the cartridge for storing cartridge information. Such modification would provide an alternating means for accessing cartridge information so as to be able to print the cartridges' labels even if one of the storage information is damaged or malfunction. Therefore, it would have been an obvious extension as taught by Balsom.

Re claims 2, 9, the reader has port 47 configured to accept the cartridge data storage and printer prints the signal information onto the cartridge (col. 6, lines 25-29).

Re claims 3 and 4, the modified system would inherently include means to communicate data between the programmable storage device and the retrieval system 40.

Re claim 5, a display is provided for displaying read information (see figure), but fails to disclose a ROM for storing operating system.

However, notice is taken ROMs are notoriously old and well known for storing systems' operating system.

It would have been obvious for an artisan at the time the invention was made to employ a ROM to store the operating system. Such modification would prevent alterations to the system operation functions. Therefore, it would have been an obvious extension.

Re claim 6, power-supplying means would inherently be included.

Re claim 8, Balsom as modified by the prior art fails to disclose printing suitable size labels to apply onto the cartridge.

However, such step is a common practice in the art.

It would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to print suitable size labels to apply onto the cartridges. Such modification would provide labels that could perfectly fit onto the cartridges so as to effectively identify. Therefore, it would have been an obvious extension as taught by Balsom as modified by the prior art of record.

Re claims 10, 11, 13, Balsom discloses magnetic media (col. 1, lines 14+).

#### *Response to Arguments*

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6 and 8-14 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

#### *Conclusion*

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO**

MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

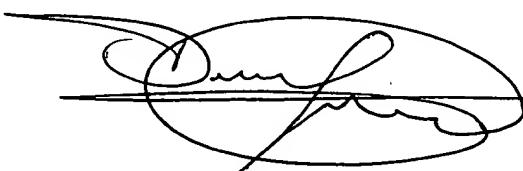
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel St.Cyr whose telephone number is 703-305-2656. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G Lee can be reached on 703-305-3503. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

Daniel St.Cyr  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2876

DS  
September 8, 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel St.Cyr", is enclosed within a large, roughly oval-shaped oval.